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The weather today will be fair.

SLOW AT FREE LABOR.

Democracy and economy are antonyms. They are the direct opposites in everything but presumption. With a shameless disregard for truth the blind partisans of the former parade statistics to show that the present administration of affairs of state is conducted in the interest of the taxpayer and yet themselves blue in the face shrieking "retrenchment and reform." Without alluding to the high-handed theft of the senate, nor to the transparent robbery of the franchise under the Miner law, it is sufficient to call attention to the extravagant bills incurred in so-called investigations of public institutions, in not one of which was the people benefited to the extent of one dollar saved in any direction. Among other institutions the Soldiers' home of this city was subjected to the lax eye and penetrating nose of an investigating committee, but they detected never a loop hole or the new never an offensive odor until after the democratic commandant was removed. Presumably acting, however, upon the findings of this committee, and to show an attempt to "save a penny at the cost of a dollar," the people are confronted by a contract for furnishing the inmates with uniforms made by thugs, thieves and murderers imprisoned at Jackson prison. It is a case of economy that will not bear the test of trial, for even if a few dollars be saved in the cost of clothes, the saving is taken directly from the pockets of law abiding and respectable working men. The protest, almost unanimous, of the clothing men of the city against the outrageous action of the two democratic boards very forcibly reflects the sentiments entertained by those who are dependent upon their employers for a livelihood. Granted that its political significance should not be weighed, there are very few men who are such obstinate partisans as to attempt to defend such a direct blow at the thrifty, workman and dinner pail as this contract unquestionably is.

ALBERT BAXTER.

The Hon. Albert Baxter, for many years an editorial writer for the Grand Rapids Eagle and author of Baxter's Ministry of Grand Rapids, has quitted the city after a residence of forty-six years, during which time he has lived a quiet, studious and industrious life. His abilities were large, and his grasp of men and affairs was cast in the same mold. His work as an editor was painstaking, and the years of his life devoted to the exacting duties of one called upon to gauge the pulsations of human events were years of devotion and honor. In retiring from the city which he so long honored, and which he did so much to develop, Mr. Baxter will take with him the confidence and esteem of a numerous body of true and loyal friends. The profession of journalism is a peculiarly thankless one in that its profits and emoluments go to those whose fortune has favored with the purse, while the men who make the journal by their force and intelligence are enriched only by the empty honor of having once stood behind the counting room and pen. Mr. Baxter is a trenchant writer, clear in diction and logical in conclusion. His facile pen has portrayed the scenes of many political contests while yet the battle waged, and painted in exultant periods the glory of victory. But he has laid aside the pen and gone into a quiet retreat near to the shores of Michigan's lovely lake where the laving waters will attune his memory to the activities of a busy life spent in a busy city. It would be a graceful and merited recognition of his unflinching services to the city and to his country.

WESTERN CROPS.

The western crop situation remains about stationary, according to Henry Clegg, who says: The season is late and the promise for wheat considerably below that of a year ago, so that the indications, at present, forebode barely an average crop; but the unusual surplus to be carried over would give us about an average supply for export. We hear from a reliable source that all of the available freight room for wheat shipment has been taken up to the 1st of July, and that it provides for some 30,000,000 bushels, all of which is under contract to be forwarded to Europe within that period. If this be true, which is not unlikely, it will have a very beneficial effect upon the financial situation, as it will materially lessen the usual spring export of gold. The conditions on the other side of the Atlantic strongly indicate the need of our wheat, while there is no existing positive requirement to draw from us our gold at the present time; on the con-

TRARY, there are better facilities for employing banking balances here than in Europe. It is, as yet, too early to form any trustworthy judgment as to the prospects of the cotton crop; but such partial indications as are forthcoming point to the probability of a reduction of acreage. Some reports covering a limited area have been published, which show a probable reduction of about 20 per cent; but they are of little value as showing what may be expected of the cotton region as a whole. This is a factor to be watched, as there can be no doubt that another nine million crop would be a national disaster. At present, however, it would be needlessly pessimistic to expect a repetition of the excess of the last two years.

PERHAPS it is better that the Tyson case should sink from public view, for the disgusting details are too extreme for charitable forbearance. A woman who will dishonor her home is entitled to no maudlin sympathy upon the flimsy pretext that her partner in wrong doing will escape punishment. Mr. Tyson had the sympathy of the community when he resolutely announced his determination to bring the guilty to justice. The sympathy he will now excite is entirely different.

UNTIL the Minneapolis convention shall nominate a candidate the papers and politicians will put every man in the high councils of each party until each shall have been knocked down again in turn. If Mr. Blaine desires to be nominated, he can have the prize with hardly a struggle, but he has not said he wanted it, and therefore all the present revival of Blaine talk is purely speculative.

HOWELL OSBORN, the young monkey millionaire of New York City, who said that "\$25,000 a year was not enough for pin money in Paris," has just announced that he has made enough in Wall street to return to Paris and "live" for another year. If Howard would go to Paris and die the tired public would cheerfully set up an elaborate funeral and consider itself the gainer.

CHURCHMEN and philanthropists throughout America will learn with sorrow of the serious illness of Archbishop Kendrick of the diocese of St. Louis. His eminence is one of those gentle, brave and scholarly ecclesiastics who are an ornament to any church or any age. His death would be a heavy loss to the Catholic church and to humanity at large.

OUR friends, the ministers, got together yesterday and then got very far apart on the subject of predestination and foreordination. It is refreshing, to say the least, to observe that representatives of the various denominations had the courage to express their individual views, but when ministers disagree, where are the poor sinners to turn for comfort?

MR. ENLOR's committee places young Raum on the rack to visit the sins of the son upon the father. About the most damaging point so far brought out is that the young man visited pool rooms. It is a good thing that Enloe is not on trial if such omissions in life or rectitude are to be counted as dishonesty.

WHEN the emperor of China, in a speech to a mass meeting, threatened to make it unsafe for Americans to linger in the Flowery Kingdom he probably wasn't thinking of the narrow escape of many faithful Chinese subjects on the Pacific coast during the days of Dennis Kearney.

FIVE expert money changers are in Chicago from Washington counting the cash in the sub-treasury, some \$14,000,000 in all. A change in the local executive made the count necessary. It will not be necessary to recount this fund again this fall because of democratic success.

VICTORIA WOODHULL and Tennessee Clifton have begun their regenerating mankind work by bringing an action against the Chicago Mail for \$100,000. If they get this sum and are willing to spend it in regenerating, there will be no dearth of material to practice on.

THAT will be a glorious feast of wisdom and flow of soul at Ann Arbor where and when the matchless McKinley is to deliver the effort of his life. It is expected that the Lincoln club of this city will send a strong delegation to hear him.

REDAV KIRKING is again writing school boy accounts of what he "has observed in the United States." At a writer of short stories Kipling has done some very creditable work; as a writer of his impressions he is a most complete and elaborate failure.

CONGRESS having passed the rivers and harbors bill without an appropriation for Grand river, the Michigan senators will have a chance to tack on a rider carrying a sum commensurate with the importance of the subject.

ANOTHER star has been added to the pugilistic firmament in the person of Plimmer, who whipped Kelley, "the Harlem lad." Plimmer will forthwith proceed to glimmer as the leading heavy in the variety theater.

"PORTS Reduced From \$3.00 to \$1.50." is a sign in a Monroe street book store. It is to be hoped that every lady will now lay in a full and complete line of goods for summer use, as the prices will never be lower.

EVERY number was encircled at the Broadway symphony concert, an opportunity to show their high appreciation of Wagnerian music and the remainder to connect their lack of it.

Last night's shower purified the air to give the weather a chance to get a new start after its miserably variable behavior for a fortnight past.

SAY IT'S A SHAME

What Local Clothiers Think of the Convict Contract

IT MEANS POLITICAL SUICIDE

The Board Has Placed Itself in Direct Opposition to Free Labor—The Work Must Necessarily Be Inferior.

Several prominent Grand Rapids clothiers and merchant tailors have been interviewed relative to the recent action of the board of management of the Soldiers' home in awarding the contract for furnishing clothing for the veterans to the state's prison at Jackson. Appended are some of these opinions:

C. H. Bodenstien of Bodenstien Bros.—"The Soldiers' home board has placed itself in direct opposition to free labor and the trade in general. The competition is direct and so unequal that we cannot hope to meet it. At the present time the board has contracts with prison labor from Clinton, N. Y., and Omaha. It isn't right to treat Grand Rapids and Michigan merchants in any such fashion. It is a very poor sort of economy at best, as apprentice labor, such as will be employed at the prison, cannot do as good work as skilled free labor. They may obtain just as good cloth, but they cannot do as good work."

Joseph Houseman, of Houseman, Donnelly & Jones—My opinion is that the board has a perfect right, as a state board, to place its contracts with the state institutions, but it has no right to contract with prison labor to compete with convict labor. I do not for an instant question the moral right of the board to do as it has, but I say that it is poor business policy and absolute political suicide.

Shame and Outrage.

A. May of the Giant—I think as long as it is not part of their business to make clothing there that it will not be satisfactory to either party. And I question if there will be a saving to the state.

I. C. Levi of the Star—I think it is a shame that prison made goods should be allowed to come in competition with honest labor. It is a shame and an outrage.

Erasmus Shattuck of Pierce Bros. & Shattuck—I think the action of the board was perfectly right. It was their duty to award the contract to the lowest bidder. The state has a lot of men under its care and it ought to have the right to clothe them from its own product. That is about the only way I can look at the matter. Those men at Jackson and the old soldiers are both supported by the state, and if one can clothe the other that much expense is saved to the people. Turning to Colonel Pierce, one of the firm, he said, "Don't you look at it in this light, Colonel? I don't see how it can be considered otherwise," replied the colonel.

Made a Mistake.

F. M. Williams—I think the board of managers made a mistake in awarding the contract to the state prison. A great many people are opposed to prison-made goods, besides we have firms in this city who are able to fill the contract at a lower cost than previously in a satisfactory manner. The Soldiers' home is a charitable institution established for the protection of the nation's defenders. The veterans are not paupers. They should not be subjected to the humiliation of wearing the products of convict labor. I am not particularly interested in the matter, because my business would not permit me to bid on the contract, but there are other firms here who are interested. This one act of the board will cost the democratic party many votes this fall and it will hurt there was never such a thing as prison-made goods. It should have been admitted as a competitor for the contract.

AMUSEMENTS.

Pretty Grace Filkins, who was here with Sol Smith Russell, who has been married to Cecilia Vokes and her husband, Cecil Clay, for \$20,000. She had a contract with the company and played with them until December last, when she was compelled to leave on account of the assaults and insults of the leading man of the company. In the "business" on the stage she threw her down with such violence that she was laid up for several weeks from the injuries received. The management promised her protection, but the abuses continued on the part of the leading man, or brute. The company will testify for Miss Filkins. It is probable that she will receive full justice, for Col. R. G. Ingersoll is her counsel and no one can plead the cause of woman more eloquently than he.

Comedian Crane, who has been a great sufferer from liver complaint for the past two years, has recovered his health. The genial player has been for some time a total abstainer from wine and liquors. He will soon be out for the summer in his yacht on the ocean blue, and a few intimate friends in Grand Rapids will doubtless soon receive their annual invitation to join him in his outing.

Several new novelties and acts were offered at Smith's last night. The old circus some very creditable Irish and Dutch turns, entertaining serio-comic, and Eustis, the Grand Rapids equilibrist, was well received. The program concludes with a laughable travesty on "Buffalo Bill."

"The Blarney Stone" called out another appreciative audience at Redmond's last night. The play compares favorably with the average dramas produced in this theater, which assumes to depict Irish life and character, Matinee today.

The Actors' Fund fair just closed in New York was not only a most pleasing social success, but the worthy fund will net the handsome sum of \$125,000. Here is a hint which other professions might take from the actor.

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES.

"Ground Arms" is the title Barones von Sauter has given to her latest and most ambitious novel. She has written previous to this several witty and clever society stories, but this is a novel with a purpose. The author reasons with Herbert Spencer that woman's highest development can come only with universal peace. She regards any national development through the use of war as a vital sin, and her argument is a very strong one.

At the same time, the book is a collection of short stories, and is a valuable contribution to the peace literature of the day. Published by C. C. McClure & Co., Chicago. Price by Eaton, Lyon & Co., Price \$1.00.

Dainty and easy in diction, chivalrous in purpose and marked by fascinating and careful interest is a little

story, "Columbus and Beatrice," from the pen of Constance DuBois, just issued from the press of A. C. McClure & Co. Besides the stain of avowal which has been the character of the great admiral, is that of his illicit connection and unkind treatment of that noble and gentle lady, Beatrice Enriquez. Keeping in mind the generous motive of exonerating her from this charge, the author has woven a clever and entertaining narrative, in which are combined the history of a strangely romantic period and the fancies of a sympathetic and forceful writer.

GOSSIP OF THE LOBBY.

What is Going on in and About the Several Hotels.

J. Boyd Pantlind of the Morton House left for Detroit yesterday to attend the Hotel Keepers' meeting. He went by the G. R. & I. to Kalamazoo, joining the Chicago party there. Mr. Pantlind will visit his mother and other friends in Norwalk, Ohio, before returning.

A. L. Lee of Detroit was at Sweet's Hotel yesterday, but has returned home to assist in entertaining the delegates to the national convention of hotel keepers.

A party of twenty prominent society and musical people from Holland were at the New Livingstone last evening. They came to attend the symphony concert.

Col. Frank Rieley of Sweet's Hotel left for Detroit yesterday morning to attend the national convention of hotel keepers.

Gil. R. Oaman of Detroit, ex-secretary of state, held sweet communion with a Morton House dinner yesterday.

Z. E. Briggs of Stanton was the guest of Sweet's Hotel yesterday. He came to attend the symphony concert.

Miss Kate Seirans was among the Kalamazoo music lovers who were at the New Livingstone yesterday.

Sixteen members of the Boston Symphony orchestra registered at the New Livingstone yesterday.

P. N. Arvidson, a merchant tailor of Kalamazoo, is registered at Sweet's Hotel.

Fifty-four members of the Boston symphony are guests at the Morton.

Dr. J. A. Manning of Lansing was a guest at the Morton yesterday.

C. B. Field and daughter of St. Joe are registered at Sweet's Hotel.

REPUBLICAN BANQUET.

A Brilliant Program Prepared for the Ann Arbor Event.

The banquet of the University Republican club to be held on the evening of May 17 at Ann Arbor will be one of the greatest intellectual and oratorical treats ever had in Michigan. Among the speakers will be Major McKinley, Judge Thurston, the Hon. J. Sloat Fassett, the Hon. A. D. Humphrey and General Porter of New York, the Hon. M. E. Stee of California, the Hon. William E. Mason and the Hon. Richard C. Hildreth of Ohio. A representation from the Lincoln club will be present. All who are interested are requested to meet at the office of Haggerty & Goss on Wednesday evening next at 7:30, that full arrangements can be made. If you wish to go and cannot be present next Wednesday evening, communicate at once with the secretary of the Lincoln club, Dwight Goss.

GAS VS. GRAVEL.

Two Gangs of Workmen Collide on Grandville Avenue.

A gang of ninety-four workmen, under Contractor Schneider, who has the job of improving Grandville avenue, from Bartlett to Hall streets, came in collision with a large force in the employ of the city, under the command of Mr. Schneider and his men, this morning. Mr. Schneider and his men quit work and appealed to President Davis of the board of public works. Advised by him, the men returned to work, but the contractor says that the Gas company's gang interfere with his men, and he will take further action in the matter.

Death of Miss Emily Martin.

Miss Emily Martin died yesterday afternoon at 5 p. m., at her residence, her sister, Mrs. J. B. Bigras, No. 167 Chatham street. The funeral services will be held Thursday morning from St. Mary's church at 8 a. m., the Rev. Father Smith officiating.

NO GENUINE PHOTOGRAPHS.

Actually Sacrificed to Please the Vanity of Men as Well as Women.

"There are no more photographs these days," said a fashionable New York maker the other day as the talk turned to posing before the camera. "Why not?" "Vanity first, style second, vanity third. 'The woman does not care for a likeness.' 'She does—sometimes, but not often: when she is going to give the card to the man from whom she expects a proposal, or to any stylish relations, or, indeed, when she is intending it for her parlor table.' 'You make a specialty of women's work?' 'I do. And I assure you, in confidence of course, that you would be thunderstruck if you could notice the difference between the real physical characteristics of the customer who goes in and the finished product as we place it on the counter for her in a few days ready for some purpose of society.' 'How about the men?' 'I am glad you spoke of it. Do not think the women are alone. They are vain, I'll admit, but it is my impression that the male customers are even more fastidious. A man is a hard critter to suit, even at best. He will stand and expect about twice as much flattery as a woman, bless her dear soul.' 'You would rather shoot a woman, then?' 'By all odds. Give me the woman customer, with all her vanities and fancies, for she is much easier to suit, provided, always, we flatter her a trifle. But the men are not satisfied even with wholesale flattery. Vanity has thus killed our art.' 'Killed by vanity?' 'Yes, dead as a door nail.'"

Transient Beauty.

The peculiar customs enjoined upon the Russian and Polish Hebrew women makes have with the striking beauty that makes many young girls of that race. Not long ago a woman apparently of middle age and showing no trace of good looks came to a physical law interested in so exact side effects.

At the same time, the book is a collection of short stories, and is a valuable contribution to the peace literature of the day. Published by C. C. McClure & Co., Chicago. Price by Eaton, Lyon & Co., Price \$1.00.

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CAN THIS THING BE

The City Ministers Pleasantly Disagree on Creeds

IS THE BIBLE CONTRADICTION?

The Subject of Predestination and Foreordination Made the Handle for a Good Natured Discussion.

Dr. Mulhern presided at the pastors' conference yesterday afternoon, and there was a good attendance. The Rev. William Denman read a portion of Scripture, and Dr. John L. Jackson led in prayer.

Miss Mulhern read a paper written by her father on "Predestination," of which the following is a brief synopsis:

"Predestination is one of the deep things of God. It is a part of the unchangeable purpose of an unchangeable God. The problem is God's decrees, and man's moral agency to solve which two systems have been advocated. Let us briefly examine each of these systems, which I shall designate as the Libertarians and the Necessarians. The Libertarians reject the doctrine of predestination. They maintain that God has left all men to act as they choose. What is meant by this? It is, of course, that he obeys the impulses of his own feelings and passions. Did not God know that if certain temptations assailed him to whom he would fall? Did He not foresee that these temptations would assail him? Did He not permit these temptations to assail him? Could He not have prevented these temptations? Why, in short, having a perfect foreknowledge that such a being so constituted and so tempted would sin and perish, why did He create him at all? In such a case it is self-evident that our feeble faculties cannot separate fore-knowledge from fore-appointment. The denial of predestination does not therefore, as even the agency of God, only conceals from the ignorant and unthinking."

Necessarian Theories.

"The Necessarian class held that God foreordained all things; that His decrees controlled irresistibly all matter, all mind, all feeling, all action; and, therefore, that man's free-agency is a tenet false, unscriptural and absurd. In the very outset we encounter objection to this creed, which amounts to a refutation; it is the consciousness of free will and free agency, which every man carries in his own bosom. Consciousness is an inward faculty which informs us of what passes within. I am not more sure that I see the sun in the heavens than that I act in accordance with my own unrestrained volitions. If a man is not a free agent, he is not accountable for his sins. If a man is compelled, it is impossible to deny that God is the author of sin. From conclusions so profound and conclusive as these, the doctrine of predestination shrinks, yet they are evidently committed to them by their creed. If God's decrees compel men, how can He so earnestly admonish and beseech them to repent and return from their evil ways? Well, then, do you not see the absurdity of predestination? Certainly. To reject it, I would have to stultify my intellect, to discard prophecy, which is based on this truth, to abjure the plain teachings of the Bible, to believe that God had abandoned the world to chance and disorder. Do you receive the doctrine of man's free agency? Yes, I do; for otherwise I must renounce my own distinct consciousness, I must disbelieve the Bible, must make God the author and yet the punisher of sin."

Not Judge Nor Reconciler.

"Embrace both doctrines. I do not reconcile them at all. I am not required to reconcile them. Who made me a judge and reconciler of God's attributes and clearly revealed testimonies? In conclusion, let us from the mysteries of Godliness we have been considering learn in humility and faith to wait patiently for as through a glass darkly."

The discussion was opened by the Rev. J. E. Smith followed the reading, the paper being commended.

The Rev. W. A. Frye—I agree in the main, yet my conviction is in free agency. I think the preponderance in the Bible is in favor of free agency.

The Rev. Wm. Denman—I believe that God predestinates certain things to be accomplished. God predestined events in the Old Testament and predestined character in the New Testament, yet I believe in the doctrine of free agency, and I preach it without any qualification whatever.

The Rev. the Smith—I do not believe that fore knowledge is predestination. I believe in the doctrine of foreordination. I believe that God foreordained the universe before all eternity. Man is subject more or less to environment and temptation, yet I believe that in the redemptive scheme provision is made for the salvation of every human being.

The Rev. Dr. Fair—if the Bible is the authority in matter of doctrine, and if the Bible teaches what we understand to be predestination, and if the Bible teaches free will, then we see that predestination means that God condemns some souls to damnation, then I reject it in toto.

Hard to Make Agree.

The Rev. Goodman—I cannot read the Scriptures and reject the doctrine of predestination. But I also believe in free agency.

The Rev. Dr. John L. Jackson—I had had this question quite settled in my own mind. I believe thoroughly in free will and that if any man comes to God he may be saved. If a man is lost it is because he rejects all that is good purposefully and goes down to death.

The Rev. proposal, the new pastor of the Holland Congregational church on West Leonard street, was present and joined in the discussion by invitation. He said he had felt great difficulty in harmonizing the doctrine of predestination with the gospel of Jesus Christ. He thought that among his people the doctrine had been preached too much. They thought if they went to church, read their Bibles and did their duty they would be saved, if they were one of the lucky ones.

Others entered into the discussion on the same line.

At 8:30 o'clock the prayer meeting was held at the home of Mrs. J. E. Smith.

Woman's Home and Hospital.

At the meeting of the trustees of the Woman's home and hospital yesterday afternoon, no business of importance was transacted. The financial condition of the institution was reported as being satisfactory.

ported as being satisfactory. Several bills contracted by the home during the last month have not been presented, but it was reported that funds sufficient to cancel them are on hand. Donations during the last month have been fewer than for some time past.

Naturalized Citizens.

Since March 1, 1890 foreigners have taken out naturalization papers in the circuit court, in the superior court 175, United States court 265, total 606.

THE POGONIP FOG.

A Peculiar Climatic Condition Observed in the Sierras.

The city of Carson, Nev., experienced the other evening the thickest and coldest pogonip fog "in the memory of the oldest inhabitant," says a writer in a recent issue of the Carson Evening Post. The pogonip fog is peculiar to elevated altitudes in the Nevada Sierras. It ascends from the valleys, and its chill embrace is so much feared by the Indians, who are so much affected by the fogs, that they change camp if apprised by the atmospheric conditions that the dreaded fog is approaching. Mr. Ogden, a chemist of the Nevada mining bureau, furnishes this pleasing description of the pogonip:

"In the White Pine mountains, the Toiyabe, the Hyko and the Pahrump ranges it is quite common to see trees, houses and everything out in the open gradually become white without any apparent cause. There is no perceptible fog but the hot air from the valleys gradually ascends up the mountain side, and, becoming crystallized, the minute crystals attach themselves to anything in sight. This phenomenon affects human beings in just the same manner, and when the fog passes by, the frozen particles will adhere to the hair and clothing, producing a very grotesque effect. Hot Creek valley is situated right in the center of the mining district, and is so called because of the warm springs that are always to be found there. These springs cause a pogonip in that district every night, and for this reason: The wind in the valley always blows from one direction in the daytime, and after sunset it invariably blows from the opposite point. The effect of the cooler air passing over the hot valley is to force the heated air to rise. When it reaches a temperature of twenty-five degrees, the result is a pogonip."

CONCERNING CHECKS.

A Banker's Suggestions as to Printing and Signature.

The cashier of a downtown bank said that when the public learned which end of the check they should sign their names on it would be a great and glorious day for the employes of the banks in New York, says the New York Sun. "When the public has been taught this little detail," the cashier said, "it would be well to give the banks a lesson in printing their checks. The latest fashion in checks is by far the most convenient one. All of the information on the check which is of value to the banker is placed on one end. At the right hand upper corner is the date. Under this is the name of the man to whom the check is drawn. Beneath this again is the amount of the check in figures and right below that the signature of the man who draws it. The other end of the check is filled in with the name of the bank, and so on. The advantages of this form of check are: First, that the date, amount, signer and drawee can be seen at a glance; second, if the check is bound up with dozens of other checks and bills it is not necessary to pull it out from the bundle to get information about it. A cashier can take up a package of such checks, thumb over the ends and set them aside in less time than it would take to go over two or three checks of the older form. Nearly all of the larger banking houses and big corporations have adopted the check, and it will eventually find its way down to the smaller concerns."

ELECTRIC TRAINS.

We May Look for Such Things in the Near Future.

Every now and then we hear that electric motors will soon take the place of steam locomotives on railroads. How much truth there is in the matter is well stated in an interesting article in Locomotive Engineering, which says:

The prospect of moving ordinary trains by electricity is about as good now as the prospects of lighting cities by electricity were before the discovery that electricity could be generated by a dynamo-electric machine. Previous to the introduction of the dynamo it was well known that electric lights could be made with powerful batteries, but the zinc and copper that constituted the fuel of the battery were too expensive to make electric lighting anything more than a curiosity. The dynamo effected a revolution by cheapening electricity. If another improvement equally radical should be made over the present methods of generating electricity it would open the way for operating railroad trains more cheaply by electricity than by locomotives. The radical improvement looked for is the direct generation of electricity from the energy of coal. So long as coal has to be burned in a furnace to make steam for an engine to drive dynamos for the generation of the electricity used there is no probability of electric transmission being cheaper than hauling by locomotives.

HEROIC COURTESY.

The Courteous Frenchman Never Reminded His Carriage Horse of His Mistake.

A recent French writer on "The Revolution, the Empire and the Restoration," cites an amusing instance of what he calls heroic courtesy.

Percy, Lord Beverly, invited to dine with him a marquis who was one of the most valiant soldiers of the army of Condé. Wishing to honor his guest and the cause which he served, that of the French king, the English peer ordered his butler to bring him a bottle of fine wine one hundred years old, "a ray of sunshine in crystal."

He opened it carefully and offered a glass to the marquis, saying: "If you deem it worthy the honor, will you drink in this wine the health of the king?" The marquis tasted the wine, and, "It was good," he said, and he drank. The English peer then said: "If you deem it worthy the honor, will you drink in this wine the health of the king?" The marquis tasted the wine, and, "It was good," he said, and he drank.

IT WAS VERY FINE

The Matchless Melody of Many Instruments

IN WAGNERIAN SYMPHONIES

Stir a Vast Audience with Pleased Emotions—D'Albert, the Mannish Frenchman, Given an Ovation.

The symphony concert of last night was an event of marked significance to Grand Rapids in that it very accurately fixed the standard of intellectual and aesthetic culture in this city as nothing else could. Ten years ago no such performance could have been given here, or if it had it would have been to empty benches. As it was Mr. Nikisch and his players were greeted by a sympathetic and responsive audience, though it may not have been an ideally appreciative one from the artist's point of view.

Mr. Nikisch never adapts his program, and there is but little in them which will thrill the heart